

RULE

Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Undersecretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

Emergency Medical Transportation Air Ambulance Service

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Undersecretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing has adopted the following rule as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and as directed by the 1995-96 General Appropriation Act, which states: "The Secretary shall implement reductions in the Medicaid program and as necessary to control expenditures to the level approved in this schedule. The Secretary is hereby directed to utilize various cost containment measures to accomplish these reductions, including but not limited to pre-certification, pre-admission screening, utilization review, and other measures as allowed by federal law". This rule is in accordance with the provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

Rule

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Undersecretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing establishes the following regulations in the Emergency Medical Transportation Program for the reimbursement of air ambulance services.

I. Reimbursement Methodology

Medicaid will pay a base rate plus mileage according to the rates in effect for Medicare as of January 1, 1995. Separate reimbursement for oxygen and disposable supplies will be made when the provider incurs these costs. Reimbursement for these services will be made in accordance with the rates previously established by Medicare and approved by Medicaid effective April 1, 1995.

II. Standards for Payment

1. Helicopters and fixed winged aircraft must be certified by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement and all air ambulance services must be provided in accordance with the state law and regulations governing the administration of these services. All air ambulance services must comply with the state law and regulations governing the personnel certifications of the emergency medical technicians administered by the Department of Health and Hospitals' Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

2. The Prior Authorization Unit of the fiscal intermediary must approve the medical necessity for all air ambulance services.

3. The Prior Authorization Unit of the fiscal intermediary must review air ambulance claims and either approve or disapprove these services based on the following requirements:

a. Air ambulance services are covered only if speedy admission of the patient is essential and the point of pick-up of the patient is inaccessible by land vehicle or great distances or other obstacles are involved in getting the patient to the nearest hospital with appropriate facilities.

b. Payment for air mileage will be limited to actual air mileage from the point of pick-up to the point of delivery of the patient.

c. Payment for a round trip transport on the same day between two hospitals, is the base rate plus the round trip mileage.

d. If a land ambulance must be used for part of the transport, the land ambulance provider will be reimbursed separately according to rules and regulations for ground ambulance services.

Bobby P. Jindal
Secretary